

Connecticut Preservation Action
The Voice of Historic Preservation at the Assembly since 1980

**In Support of the Community Investment Act (CIA)
 and in Opposition to the “Sweep” of \$4.8 million for deficit reduction**

Appropriations Public Hearing Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Senator Harp, Rep. Geragosian, Members of the Committee: I am Anita Mielert, president of CT Preservation Action, CT Advisor to the National Trust of Historic Preservation’s Board of Advisors, and a former First Selectman of the Town of Simsbury.

Jobs and Infrastructure Reinvestment are the dual goals that have been identified as key to restoring our prosperity in our State and Nation. Community Investment Act funds support historic preservation projects which assist towns and non-profits to rehabilitate significant buildings, creating local jobs in the community. Therefore, taking funds from the Community Investment Act is Anti-Stimulus.

If I can give you one take-away today, it is that **This is not your grandmother’s historic preservation.** The old template of historic house museums gave way long ago to a muscular, vibrant engine of economic development which is based on our traditional way of life and the quality of life we enjoy in this state.

It is not old houses for tourists to look at; it is homes rehabbed for new families.

It is not old department stores without customers; it is incubator buildings with vibrant new businesses in the new economy and downtown apartments.

It is not the “hole in the doughnut” center of the city; it is New Urbanism.

Attached you will find a short spreadsheet which is a small example of how CIA funds are used by the CCT. These are all construction grants that are matched dollar-for-dollar; all applications must be accompanied by construction drawings. These are not Wish List projects, but vital to the towns, schools and nonprofits that apply. All these projects will:

- ⇒ Create jobs at a time when we need it the most. Rehab creates more jobs than new construction or manufacturing. Over 60% of the investment goes to labor.
- ⇒ Stimulate further private or public investment. All grants are matched. And beyond that, most projects are only a portion of a much larger project.
- ⇒ Generate tax revenue. Skilled labor is usually found locally; they in turn will spend their earnings locally. State government will collect more in employment taxes.
- ⇒ Bring buildings back to productive use, revitalizing urban communities.

The CIA has far exceeded the hopes for this measure when it was enacted in 2005. The coalition that has resulted from these four interest areas has been **silobusting**. We are working together, forging partnerships and joint ventures. And the actual investment in our communities has been transformational. **While many disciplines talk about Smart Growth, we are actually doing it.**

As a municipal leader, I can say that the projects funded in Simsbury alone have saved key farms which produce local food, helped fund a fragile trap rock ridge from development, and sponsored a transformational historic-resource-based downtown revival. **Stimulus can come in many sizes and shapes. This one is shaped and leveraged by the grassroots and results in stronger communities as well as stronger economies. Please save the CIA and local jobs.**

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 Kathy Maher, VP; John W. Shannahan, Treas.; Linda Feczko, Sec.*

Historic Restoration Grant Fund Applications 2009

<u>City/Town</u>	<u>Organization Name</u>	<u>Property /Historic Name</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Grant Request</u>
Avon	Avon Old Farms School	Avon Old Farms/Pope Quadrangle	Rehab. Pope Quadrangle walkways	\$200,000.00
Bolton	Town of Bolton	Bolton Heritage Farm	Restore roof and cupola of barn	\$55,694.00
Cheshire	Cheshire Land Trust	Ives Hay Barn	Stabalization of barn	\$47,485.00
Danbury	City of Danbury	Richter House	Restore/repair roof, gutters, windows, siding	\$75,000.00
East Haddam	Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church	St' Stephen's Episcopal Church	Repair water infiltration problems, roof, bell tower	\$130,000.00
Guilford	First Congregational Church	First Congregational Church	Restoration of church sanctuary portico	\$50,000.00
Hartford	Christ Church Cathedral	Christ Church Cathedral	Restore cast iron fencing and interior slate floor	\$199,487.00
Hartford	Immanuel Congregational Church	Immanuel Congregational Church	Restore the roof	\$108,750.00
Hebron	Town of Hebron	The Horton House	Rehab/repair roof, drainage, door, trim	\$32,000.00
Middle Haddam	Middle Haddam Public Library	Middle Haddam Public Library	Phase II of stabalization, windows, electric upgrade	\$16,800.00
New London	Connecticut College	130 Mohegan Avenue, New London	Stabalize and restore structure	\$101,500.00
Ridgefield	Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum	Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum	Restore original front porch	\$137,584.00
Simsbury	Town of Simsbury	Eno Memorial Hall	Restore and Rehabilitate Hall	\$200,000.00
Sprague	Town of Sprague	The Grist Mill	Renovate 3rd floor for museum/archive space	\$90,000.00
Vernon	Town of Vernon	Memorial Hall	Reonvation of the 2nd floor	\$90,000.00
Windham	Town of Windham	GAR Hall	Construct ADA compliant toilet on 2nd floor	\$19,950.00

TOTAL	\$1,554,250.00
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